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The following annual reports were read and referred to the Publication Committee:—

REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary respectfully reports that during the year ending November 30, 1883, twenty-four members and seven correspondents have been elected.

Resignations of membership have been received from the following, and accepted on the usual conditions:—Wm. John Potts, G. B. Cresson, Isaac S. Williams, Howard A. Kelly, M. D., John Wagner, W. G. Andenried, Charles W. Pickering, Wilson Mitchell, H. W. Workman and R. S. Peabody.

The deaths of fourteen members and seven correspondents have been announced and duly recorded in the printed Proceedings.

Thirty-five papers have been presented for publication, as follows: Edw. D. Cope, 7; Jos. Leidy, 3; Angelo Heilprin, 3; S. B. Buckley, 1; H. T. Cresson, 1; B. W. Everman and S. E. Meek, 1; S. G. Foulke, 1; Andrew Garrett, 1; Josiah Hoopes, 1; David S. Jordan, 1; Alexis A. Julien, 1; H. Carvill Lewis, 1; Graceanna Lewis, 1; Isaac C. Martindale, 1; Rev. H. C. McCook, 1; Charles L. Mitchell, 1; Henry F. Osborn, 1; Benjamin Sharp, 1; Theo. D. Rand, 1; Jos. Swain, 1; Jos. Swain and Geo. B. Kalb, 1; R. E. C. Stearns, 1; Chas. H. Townsend, 1; Jos. Willcox, 1; Berlin H. Wright, 1. One of these was withdrawn by the author; two of those by Dr. Leidy and the one by Mr. Garrett were accepted for publication in the Journal, and the others have been or are about to be issued in the Proceedings.

One hundred and fifty-nine pages of the Proceedings for 1882 and two hundred and thirty-two pages of the volume for 1883 have been published. The latter is illustrated by eleven plates. Sixty-eight pages of the Journal, Vol. IX, Part I, have also been printed. These include Dr. Leidy's paper on *Urnatella gracilis*, advance copies of which were issued by the author early in December of the present year, and about half of Mr. Garrett's paper on Society Islands Shells. The former is illustrated by one fine chromolithographic plate, and the latter by two plain lithographs, containing one hundred and fifty-two figures.

One hundred and twenty-one copies of the Proceedings have been distributed to subscribers. Fifty-nine copies have been sent to domestic, and three hundred and thirteen to foreign journals and societies. The exchange list has been carefully revised,

several societies from which we have not received anything for more than five years having been dropped, while a number heretofore omitted have been added. It has always been the practice of the society to send its publications to a number of important foreign Universities and town libraries, situated in places not otherwise in receipt of the Proceedings and Journal, so that students everywhere may be able to inform themselves of the Academy's contributions to science. These intellectual centres have been supplied with the current numbers of the Proceedings as usual.

A circular distributed to corresponding societies in July, asking them to send their publications to the Academy by post, in exchange for a like prompt transmission on our part, has not been productive of as much result as was hoped for. An early distribution of the Proceedings is, however, of so much importance, both to the contributors and to the society at large, that each number will be mailed, hereafter, to exchanges as well as to subscribers, as soon as possible after its issue from the press.

The average attendance at the meetings during the year has been thirty-one. Verbal communications have been made by twenty-six members and two guests. Much the greater number of these have been prepared by the authors for publication in the Proceedings, and form not the least important part of the annual volume, while abstracts were made for the public press of those which could at all be regarded as of popular interest.

Art. 6, Chap. X, of the By-Laws was amended on November 27 by striking out from the first line the word "only," and from the second and third lines the words "obtain permission to." Art. 6, Chap. XI, was amended at the same meeting by striking out all after the word "public" in the second line, and inserting in lieu thereof "daily, except Sunday, and at least one day in the week without charge on such conditions and under such regulations as the Council shall establish from time to time."

Dr. Ruschenberger having been elected a Curator at the annual election in 1882, thereby became ex-officio a member of the Council; Mr. Charles Morris was elected to fill the vacancy thus created in the latter body. At the meeting of the Council held February 17, the Curator-in-charge, Mr. Chas. F. Parker, was granted a month's leave of absence in consequence of an indisposition, which it was then hoped was but temporary. It was found

necessary, however, to renew the leave of absence from time to time until his death on the 7th of September. Earnest testimony to his worth as a man and to the value of his services to the Academy has been already borne by his associates, and the general feeling of the society has been well expressed in the able biographical notice by his friend and fellow-member, Isaac C. Martindale, published in the Proceedings of November 13.

At the meeting of the Academy held October 2, Prof. Angelo Heilprin was elected Curator, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Parker; and at the meeting of the Council held on the 5th of October he was appointed Curator-in-charge, or Actuary to the Curators.

An inquiry from the New Century Club, as to the desirability of endowing a professorship in the Academy, to be held exclusively by women, having been referred for consideration to the Council, it was resolved that, inasmuch as the professorships are open to women, as well as men, it is inexpedient to restrict any professorship to either sex. This action of the Council was endorsed by the Academy and transmitted to the New Century Club, with the suggestion that if a proposition were made to endow a scholarship for women instead of a professorship, the subject might receive further consideration.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Valentine, Corlies, Ruschenberger, Frazer and Whelen, was appointed January 2, to petition the Legislature of Pennsylvania to aid the Academy in the extension and furnishing of its building. The efforts of this committee have been so far unproductive of result, although by action of the Legislature the collections of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania are now stored in boxes in the cellar of the Academy. Their value to the student would be, of course, greatly enhanced if they were properly displayed. The Academy is, however, entirely unable at present to furnish the space necessary for such exhibition, and the request to the Legislature for aid in the construction of an addition to the Academy, in which these collections would be properly placed, cannot be deemed unreasonable.

The most important additions to the Academy's possessions made during the year have been the Wm. S. Vaux collections of minerals and antiquities. After mature consideration by the Council and the Academy, the conditions proposed by the executor

for the government of the bequest were finally adopted at the meeting held February 20. A special appropriation was made for the alteration of the entresol rooms at the east end of the hall, for the accommodation of these collections, and therein they have been arranged by Mr. Jacob Binder, the special curator appointed by the Council in conformity with the articles of agreement. Mr. Binder's report, which follows that of the Professor of Mineralogy, indicates the character and extent, as well as the mode of arrangement, of the collections under his charge.

At the meeting held April 24, the following was adopted :—

Resolved, That the title to certain lands in Western Virginia, belonging to the Academy, and heretofore held in trust therefor by the late Wm. S. Vaux, be vested in Messrs. T. D. Rand, Jacob Binder and S. Fisher Corlies, as trustees for the Academy, and that the title to a burial lot, owned by the Academy in the cemetery adjoining the Academy's premises on Race Street, be transferred to the Trustees of the Building Fund, in accordance with the recommendation of the Council, March 26, 1883.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has accepted the invitation tendered by the Academy, in conjunction with other educational establishments, the officers of the municipal government and prominent citizens, to meet in Philadelphia in 1884. It is hoped that the meeting may be attended by the British Association which meets in Montreal next August, or at least by an important representation thereof. The International Electrical Exhibition, which it is proposed to hold at the same time under the patronage of the Franklin Institute, cannot fail to add largely to the interest of the occasion and to the number of those in attendance. The result will probably be one of the largest scientific meetings ever held, and one which cannot fail to exert a beneficial influence on the Academy in common with the other scientific institutions of the city. We have, therefore, abundant reason to hope that the prosperity of the society at the end of next year will be at least as great as that so clearly set forth in the accompanying annual reports of officers and sections.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDW. J. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary.